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Church Mulls Offer to Buy

Heber City Waits Decision On LDS Stake Tabernacle

Special to The Tribune

HEBER CITY — The Heber City Council is awaiting a decision from the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to determine ownership of the Wasatch LDS Stake Tabernacle.

A proposal from the LDS First Presidency to lease the Tabernacle to Heber City was countered by a proposal from the councilmen.

Accept Restrictions

The proposal by the councilmen was to buy outright and obtain title to the historic building but to accept church restrictions on maintenance and use of the building.

J. Harold Call, Wasatch LDS Stake president and his first counselor, Ralph Carlile, made the lease proposal at a Council meeting Tuesday night.

The proposal from the LDS First Presidency involved turning over the tabernacle and grounds to Heber City for 50 years with an option to renew the agreement for another 50 years.

Church Control

The proposal from the LDS First Presidency also provided for church control over maintenance and use of the buildings to "meet LDS Church standards."

City Councilman Guy McDougal said the Council favored an agreement whereby Heber City would have the title but also would accept LDS Church restrictions on maintenance and use.

Area citizens and historical groups protested the tearing down of the tabernacle to make way for a two-ward stake center.